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General and complete disarmament

Australia and Japan: revised draft resolution

A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 H of 15 December 1994, 50/70 C of 12 December 1995, 51/45 G of 10 December 1996, 52/38 K of 9 December 1997, 53/77 U of 4 December 1998 and 54/54 D of 1 December 1999,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament mutually complement and strengthen each other,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation and as an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the progress made by the nuclear-weapon States on reduction of their nuclear weapons unilaterally or through their negotiations, and the efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by the international community,

Also reaffirming the conviction that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, ensuring international peace and security,

Bearing in mind the recent nuclear tests, as well as the regional situations, which pose a challenge to international efforts to strengthen the global regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, bearing in mind the various views of Member States on the report,

Welcoming the successful adoption of the final document at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which includes, inter alia, an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals

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leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States parties are committed under Article VI of NPT,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the universality of NPT, and calls upon States not parties to NPT to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States without delay and without conditions;

2. *Also reaffirms* the importance for all States parties to NPT to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty;

3. *Stresses* the central importance of taking the following practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament":

(a) The early signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States, especially by those States whose ratification is required for its entry into force, with a view to its early entry into force before 2003, as well as a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending its entry into force;

(b) The immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and their conclusion as early as possible before 2005 of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and, pending its entry into force, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons;

(c) The establishment of an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament in the context of establishing a programme of work;

(d) The inclusion of the principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

(e) The early entry into force and full implementation of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) and the conclusion of START III as soon as possible, while preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in accordance with its provisions;

(f) Steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

(i) Further efforts by all the nuclear-weapon States to continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals, unilaterally or through their negotiations;

(ii) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to the nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to Article VI and as voluntary confidence-building measures to support further progress on nuclear disarmament;

(iii) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(iv) Concrete agreed measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;

(v) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(vi) The engagement as soon as appropriate of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons;

4. *Recognizes* also that the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons will require further steps by the nuclear-weapon States, including:

(a) The continuation of the nuclear disarmament process beyond START III;

(b) Deeper reductions by all the nuclear-weapon States, unilaterally or through their negotiations, in nuclear weapons in the process of working towards achieving their elimination;

5. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States to keep the States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress or efforts made towards nuclear disarmament;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, notes the importance of the safe and effective management of the resultant fissile materials and calls for arrangements by all the nuclear-weapon States to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes to ensure that such material remains permanently outside of military programmes;

7. *Stresses* the importance of further development of the verification capabilities, including IAEA safeguards, that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

8. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery, confirming and strengthening, if necessary, their policies not to transfer equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to the proliferation of those weapons;

9. *Calls upon* all States to maintain the highest possible standards of security, safe custody, effective control and physical protection of all materials that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the IAEA Model Protocol[1] with a view to enhancing nuclear non-proliferation, and encourages all States which have not done so to conclude an additional protocol with IAEA as soon as possible;

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[1] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolution GC(44)/RES/19, which includes elements of a plan of action to promote and facilitate the conclusion and entry into force of safeguards agreements and additional protocols, at the IAEA General Conference and calls for the early and full implementation of the resolution;

12. *Encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.